

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

from the Savannah River Site

Preparing EA on wetlands construction

The Savannah River Site (SRS) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental consequences associated with the construction of wetlands to treat effluent discharges from the A-01 outfall. The outfall is located near the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL) in the Administrative Area at SRS. The discharge is process water and storm water from the Administration Area, and the contamination is most likely from old piping from the Savannah River Technology Center and SREL.

A revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit was issued for SRS in 1996. This type of permit is issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to protect surface water by requiring that the discharge of pollutants be controlled or prevented. In this permit, new outfall limits, effective on October 1, 1999, were established for copper, lead, mercury, and chronic toxicity. Since the new permit was issued, the makeup of the effluents discharged at the A-01 outfall has consistently not met the new 1999 permit limits for both copper and chronic toxicity.

SRS is considering the construction of wetlands to provide treatment of the effluent

so the site will be able to meet the revised outfall limits. This proposed action would include the installation of below-the-surface wetlands with a detention basin to receive flow from the various substreams which contribute to the A-01 outfall.

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RCRA modification requested

The U.S. Department of Energy-Savannah River Operations Office has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) a modification to Savannah River Site's 1992 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Part B Permit Renewal Application, Volume II, which details operations at the Hazardous Waste Storage Facility (HWSF), and Volume V, H-Area Hazardous Waste Management Facility (HWMF).

The Volume II revision (Rev. 6) requests approval for the placement of temporary huts inside the secondary containment inside building 645-2N. The huts will be used for sorting and segregating mixed waste. The placement of the huts does not impact RCRA secondary containment requirements.

The Volume V revision (Rev. 9) requests enhancements to portions of two drainage ditches

at the closed H-Area HWMF. The improvements will allow enhanced drainage from the cap layer into the concrete channel and convey storm water along the channel more effectively. More information, including the actual permit application, is available for review and copying at the DOE Public Reading Room in the University of South Carolina-Aiken library, or by contacting personnel listed below.

Written comments may be sent to SCDHEC. All comments will be considered in the final decision. Requests for a public hearing may also be sent to SCDHEC, along with issues to be discussed.

CIF requests portable system

The Savannah River Site Consolidated Incineration Facility (CIF) has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control a temporary authorization to use a portable cement stabilization system to treat liquid blowdown waste from CIF.

While the facility's current stabilization system consistently produces stabilized waste that meets applicable treatment standards, its design processing rate has not yet been achieved due to occasional mechanical failures. A portable system is necessary to provide sufficient additional capacity to allow CIF to treat the volume of blowdown expected to be generated as mixed waste is incinerated per regulatory commitments.

Proposed plans released for public review

The Department of Energy Savannah River Operations Office (DOESR) released Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans describing the proposed remedial approaches for the Motor Shops Seepage Basin (MSSB) and the C-, F-, K-, and P-Area Coal Pile Runoff Basins (CFKP CPRB) operable units at the Savannah River Site (SRS) on Feb. 12, 1998. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial approach for these units. The public comment period is scheduled from Feb. 12, 1998, to March 28, 1998.

DOE, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC concluded that the risks to human health and the environment posed by the MSSB and the C-, F-, and P-Area Coal Pile Runoff Basins and the K- Area Coal Pile Runoff Basin source (CFKP CPRB) are minimal and no further remediation is required. However, the K-Area Coal Pile Runoff Basin groundwater will require monitoring and reporting until either a request for the suspension of the monitoring program is approved, or it is determined that corrective action is necessary.

The MSSB is located in the administrative area (A-Area) of SRS and was used between 1977 and 1983 by the SRS automotive shop. The unlined seepage basin received liquid waste from the 716-A Motor Shops oil/water separator. Generally the wastewater discharges to the MSSB included only trace amounts of engine oil, grease, kerosene and antifreeze.

The coal pile runoff basins were constructed in 1981 to collect runoff from coal piles that are located near SRS's coal-fired power plants. Because the power plants at C, F, K, and P Areas have been shut down, the coal pile runoff basins are no longer needed. During the summer of 1997, the coal-laden sediments and soils were removed under the Removal Site Evaluation Report/Wastewater Closure Plan for the the C-, F-, K-, and P-Area Coal Pile Runoff Basins. These actions involved removing the coal-laden sediments and backfilling the basins with clean soil; followed by grading and seeding. These actions removed the source of contamination and are protective of the groundwater.

Comments on the Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans and the draft RCRA permit modifications are requested by March 28, 1998. Upon completion of the public comment period, Responsiveness Summaries will

be prepared to address public comments. The Responsiveness Summary for each operable unit will be made available with the Records of Decision and the final RCRA permit decisions, and these will be sent to each person who submits comments. Copies of the Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans are available in the Administrative Record at the information repositories listed below.

for more information...

The Statements of Basis/Proposed Plans are also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under "Happening Now", (<http://www.srs.gov>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, (<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/enviro-rest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>). Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803)896-4000

or
SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested by contacting John Litton. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan may be sent to Mary Flora and comments on the draft RCRA permit modification may be sent to John Litton. For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Mary A. Flora
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 703-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
mary.flora@srs.gov
or
SCDHEC
Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director
Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 896-4000

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

- **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub**

ALLOY (DOE/EIS-0277), The public comment period ended January 5, 1998. Comments are being resolved and will be incorporated in the final EIS which is expected to be issued second quarter, 1998.

- **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The comment period ended February 2, 1998. Final EIS and ROD are projected for July and August 1998, respectively.

- **Tritium Extraction Facility (DOE/EIS-0271)**, Publication of the draft EIS is projected for April 1998 and final EIS and ROD for August and September 1998, respectively.

- **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. The TRU ROD was issued January 23, 1998 (63 FR 3629). Planned RODs are HLW storage in March 1998, LLW/

LLMW in June 1998.

- **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, Work on draft EIS is expected to resume April or May 1998.

- **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, The draft EIS is scheduled for June 1998.

- **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, Preparation of the draft EA is progressing with a proposed issue date of second quarter 1998.

- **Reuse of TNX as a Multi-Purpose Pilot Plant Project Campus (DOE/EA-1231)**, The comment period ended February 17, 1998. A NEPA determination will be issued in March 1998.

- **Waste Segregation Facility (WSF) (DOE/EA-1229)**, The FONSI was issued January 9, 1998.

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A notification of SRS's intent to prepare this EA was sent to the States of South Carolina and Georgia on January 27, 1998. If you wish to request a copy of the predecisional draft DOE/EA-1246 when it becomes available, see box below.

Need NEPA documents?

Andrew R. Grainger

U.S. Department of Energy
Savannah River
Operations Office

Building 742-A, Rm. 183
Aiken, S.C. 29802
E-mail: nepa@srs.gov
Fax/Phone: 1 (800) 881-7292

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

* DOE Public Reading Room, Gregg-Graniteville Library, USC-Aiken, Aiken, S.C. * Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department, USC-Columbia, Columbia, S.C. * Reese Library, Augusta State University, Augusta, Ga. * Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State University, Savannah, Ga.

INTERNET ACCESS

SRS Home Page, "What's New"
(<http://www.srs.gov>)

SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page
(<http://www.srs.gov/general/sci-tech/envirorest/extpage/pub/pubinv.html>)

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The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other
cleanup and compliance activities at SRS,
please contact:

Mary Flora

Muriel Carter

WSRC

WSRC

703-A, Rm. 133

Public Relations

Aiken, S.C. 29808

(803) 725-0268

(803) 725-2272

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